

Gentry, Allen

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Abraham Lincoln Before 1860

Allen Gentry

Excerpts from newspapers and other
sources

From the files of the
Lincoln Financial Foundation Collection

The family Bible of Allen Gentry, with whom Abraham Lincoln made his memorable Flat-boat trip down the Ohio and Mississippi rivers.

The trip was from Rockport, Indiana, while Lincoln was but an over-grown, awkward boy from the hill country around Lincoln City, which was in after years named in his honor. It was to this Allen Gentry that Lincoln made the statement so quoted in history as evidence of his early disfavor of slavery as practiced in the southern States of the Union; "If I ever get a chance to hit that thing(slavery), I'll hit it and hit it hard."

Allen Gentry is the grandfather of Mrs. Addie Haines Brown who, with her husband, Frederick Howard Brown, took me from the Orphanage at Rockport, Indiana, on St. Valentine's day in the year 1900. Mrs. Brown is the daughter of Mary E. Gentry Haines and Willis Haines. Mary E. Gentry, as the accompanying photographs of the records contained in this book show, was a daughter of Allen Gentry, born the 27th of November 1832. This Bible, published by Anson Whipple, Walpole, N.H. in the year 1815, is at present (March 1936) the property of the above mentioned Mr. Addie Haines Brown, residing at Rockport, Indiana.

While it's paper is yellowing with age, every word is easily discerned. Having been published before 1827, when the British Bible Society, by vote, excluded them from the canon, this Bible contains all of the books of the Apocrypha group. It contains also the ADDRESS with which the translators presented King James of Great Britain the manuscript of the so-called King James Version of the Holy Bible, in the year 1611. It's leather binding is in perfect condition after 121 years.

Signed,

Rev. Ira M. Williams



The Property of

FAMILY RECORD.

BIRTHS.

James Gentry was
born the 17th of December
A. D. 1828

Abraham Gentry was
born the 1st of September
A. D. 1830

Mary Gentry was
born the 27th of November
A. D. 1832

Louisa Gentry was
born the 21st of December
A. D. 1834

Church Gentry was
born the 1st of 1838

that fight with their hands;
ing unto God with their hearts;
no less than thirty and five
men: for through the appear-
God they were slain their-

Now when the battle was done,
again with joy, they knew that
lay dead in his mercy.
then they made a great shout, and
raising the Almighty in their
grage.

And Judas, who was ever the chief
of the citizens, both in buy-
ing and selling, and in the
market, and bring-

He had cut out the
manor, he co-
ve it by rece-
ing up the reward
of the ten, l.

He praised toward
the Lord, saying, Bless-
ed be his own place: unclean-

of Nicom's head up-
an evident and manifest
the help of the Lord
and da- with a com-

no cate he t-
nity, but to cel-
ot the twelfth
in tongue in the day
Mardoche's day;

t it with Nicom; and
forth the Hebrews day
r power. He here will

it I have den- and as in
ory, it is that which I do
tenderly, and only, it
could an- drink wine
is hurt- mingled with
no as- th the taile;
a d- ed delighteth
the story. And

FAMILY RECORD.

MARRIAGES.

*Allen Gentry and
Anna his wife
was married the
20th of March A.D. 1828*

RECORD.

Gentry was
of December
1828

Gentry
of September
1830

Gentry was
27 of November
1832

Gentry was
21 of December
1834

Gentry was
18 1838

FAMILY RECORD.

DEATHS.

Joseph Gentry Dec
28 1837
Age 1 year 2 months
& 10 days

Salley Maria Gentry
was Born 15 Oct 1840

John A. Gentry
was born April 1 1843

Allen Polk Gentry

Born July 30 1845

Hannah Agness Gentry

Born June 3 1848

Alice Francis Gentry

Born December 26 1852



We, the descendants of Allen Gentry, resent many false statements made by Lincoln biographers, concerning a flatboat trip to New Orleans from Gentry's Landing in Rockport, Indiana.

Abraham Lincoln went as oarsman on Allen Gentry's flatboat in December 1828.

They left from Gentry's landing, where a marker now stands. Three generations of Gentrys flatboated from this spot.

The flatboats were built down the river about one-half a mile from the landing, then paddled upstream to the landing when it was time to load the boat for the southern trip.

These trips were always made in the late fall or early winter after the summer crops were gathered, hogs butchered, lard rendered and everything was packed.

When in New Orleans, Gentry and Lincoln witnessed a slave market, and Lincoln, on seeing a slave sold said to Gentry, "If I ever get a chance to hit that thing, I'll hit it hard".

Allen Gentry told his family of this remark after the return from New Orleans, and retold it many times during his lifetime.

There are the true facts. Different biographers say that Lincoln never made such a trip from Rockport, Indiana; others that Gentry's landing was not the place from which the flatboat left; others say Lincoln never made the remark about slavery; some say he made the remark on an Illinois flatboat trip; several writers say the flatboat trip was made in April.

Lewis Gentry, grandson of Allen Gentry, and also a flatboat man (the third and last of the generation to make the flatboat trips) said that the Gentrys always made their trips in the fall and early winter. He spoke often of the New Orleans trip which his grandfather and Lincoln made in 1828, and told how his father, Absolom Gentry, related the facts of the trip and Lincoln's remark about slavery, as told to him by his father, Allen Gentry.

We, the Gentry-descendants, heard all these facts as children, from our parents, from our brother, uncle and cousin, Lewis Gentry, and know them to be true.

We are interested in the preservation of the Gentry's flatboat landing at Rockport, Indiana as a national historical shrine.

(signed)

(name)

(address)

(relation to Allen Gentry)

This was signed by 25 descendants of Allen Gentry and sent to Congressman Bailey Merrill.

